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steps to Rajaji Hall. Only Members can go up the steps to the Rajaji Hall and they will be seated in the verandahs, where light refreshments have been arranged. Members must be in their seats before 5-30 p.m.

Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh will go round and meet the Members. When Her Magesty the Queen and His Royal Highness go round, Members will stand in their seats and wish them 'Namasthe' in the Indian style.

Members who are not resident inside the Government Estate will enter by the main gate opposite the Simpson Company. They must show their passes and passes for their families to the officers at the Gate without which they will not be allowed to enter the Government Estate. Members must not leave the Hall until five minutes after the departure of Her Majesty the Queen and her party from the Rajaji Hall.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO FISHERMEN'S HUTS AND STEPS TAKEN TO REHABILITATE THEM.

* VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 41 of the Madras Council Rules, I seek your permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the extensive damage caused to the huts of the fishermen both in the City and in the districts by the recent monsoon rains and gale, as a result of which many fishermen families have been rendered homeless, and the failure to provide immediate and timely relief for their rehabilitation in the matter of financial aid and materials for reconstruction of their huts. Hundreds of fishermen have been rendered homeless and some boats were also destroyed. But relief has not been given to these poor people in time as a result of which many of them are living in damaged and leaking huts which are unsafe. In fact, Sir, some of them are residing with their neighbours and relatives. They are too poor to reconstruct their houses and boats without Government aid, which has reached the other poor people in the non-fishermen areas already. It is therefore necessary and imperative that immediate action should be taken to rehabilitate the poor fishermen and provide financial and other aids to them.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was heavy rain in coastal areas of this State during November and December 1960. During this period a cyclone was experienced in and near the City of Madras in November 1960. The rain and cyclone caused widespread damage to huts and distress to the poorer sections of the people. Relief measures for the affected people, irrespective of their trade or calling, were taken by the Corporation of Madras and by the Collectors of Tanjore, Madras, and Chingleput, where serious

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damage occurred. The relief given included cash payment up to a maximum of Rs. 30 for repairing huts. In addition to this the affected persons were also supplied with free food by the Corporation of Madras and the Collector of Chingleput. The Corporation of Madras also distributed blankets, dhotis, and sarees to the needy persons. As the Corporation did not maintain separate figures for relief given to fishermen and others, it has not been possible to ascertain the number of fishermen who were given relief by the Corporation. It has however been possible to get relevant information from the districts, and from the figures furnished by the Collectors it is seen that in Thanjavur 815 families of fishermen were given relief amounting to Rs. 7,210, in Madras 1,025 families of fishermen were given relief amounting to Rs. 14,650 by the Collector of Madras, and in Chingleput district 269 families were given relief amounting to Rs. 1,845. These 2,109 families were given relief amounting in all to Rs. 23,705 in this State. In addition to this about 300 fishermen families of the extended area in Madras City were given relief amounting to Rs. 3,960 by the Collector of Madras.

It will be seen that the Revenue Department and the Corporation of Madras have taken prompt and necessary action for giving relief to the families of fishermen affected by the weather in November and December 1960. The Fisheries Department gave relief in matters which are peculiar to the profession of fishermen. Frequently, in calamities of this sort, boats and nets of fishermen get damaged and the affected persons are unable to pursue their avocation. The Fisheries Department therefore gives necessary assistance in suitable cases for repairs to boats and nets and even for acquiring new nets. On this occasion also the Fisheries Department took action to supply cotton yarn at subsidised rates and in addition gave assistance for repairs to damaged catamarans in suitable cases.

As an instance of Government's awareness and readiness for assisting fishermen, I would like to mention that on 17th November 1960 Government received information that three fishermen had drifted away from Porto Novo on the 13th November 1960 under the influence of the north-east monsoon and that their whereabouts were unknown. Immediately a telegram was issued on 18th November 1960 requesting assistance from the Military authorities for an aerial survey for locating the whereabouts of these three fishermen. The Government also alerted the Mercantile Marine Department and requested the Ceylon Government to keep watch and to inform this Government immediately in case these fishermen were sighted by any ships or by any persons on the Ceylonese coast. Unfortunately these measures did not help to locate these fishermen.

In view of what I have said, I am sure the House will agree with me that adequate relief has been given to the fishermen affected by the heavy rains and cyclone in November and December last year without treating the fishermen as a privileged class

among the poor people. The fishermen have certainly received as much help as other poor people and in addition assistance has been given to fishermen wherever required for mending boats and nets.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) MOTION UNDER RULE 23 (1) OF THE COUNCIL RULES.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 18th February 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

'That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 18th February 1961'.

The motion was put and carried.

(2) AMENDMENT TO RULES UNDER THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919 (MADRAS ACT IV OF 1919).

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

" That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Governor of Madras under sub-section (3) of section 347 of the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (Madras Act IV of 1919), amending Schedule V to that Act be approved.

Draft Rule

In sub-rule (1) of rule 12 of the said Schedule, for the words 'or in his absence by the Revenue Officer' the words 'or any Officer or servant of the Corporation specially authorized by the Commissioner in this behalf' shall be substituted."

Under rule 12 (1) of Schedule V to the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, all orders and cheques against the Municipal fund (i.e. Corporation fund) shall be signed by the Commissioner of the Corporation of Madras or in his absence by the Revenue Officer of the Corporation. Under this rule, at present all pay orders and cheques against Municipal fund are signed by the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras. Under rules 13 and 14 of the said Schedule, the Commissioner is the authority competent to make or authorize the payment out of Corporation funds of sums due for payment.

The Commissioner has stated that due to the expansion of the developmental activities and execution of various capital works, he has to sign hundreds of cheques everyday which takes a good